PSSA Review II -Reading Assessment Anchor Glossary

**Affix:** One or more letters occurring as a bound form attached to the beginning or end of a word or base and serving to produce a derivative word or an inflectional form (e.g., a prefix or suffix).

**Analysis:** The process or result of identifying the parts of a whole and their relationships to one another.

**Appositive:** Also called apposition; a grammatical construction in which two usually adjacent nouns having the same referent stand next to one another; often separated by commas (e.g., “ My father, Ned, worked for NASA.”).

**Assertion:** A declaration, statement, allegation or claim.

**Characterization:** The method an author uses to reveal characters and their various personalities.

**Compare:** Placing together characters, situations or ideas to show common or differing features in literary selections.

**Context Clues:** Information from the reading that identifies a word or group of words.

### Contrast: To compare or appraise differences.

**Differentiate:** Distinguish, tell apart and recognize differences between two or more items.

**Editorials:** A newspaper or magazine article that gives the opinions of the editors or publishers; an expression of opinion that resembles such an article.

**Epic:** A long narrative poem about the adventures of a hero of great historic or legendary importance.

**Fluency:** The clear, easy, written or spoken expression of ideas; freedom from word-identification problems that might hinder comprehension in silent reading or the expression of ideas in oral reading.

**Foreshadowing:** A device used in literature to create expectation or to set up an explanation of later developments.

**Literary Conflict:** The struggle that grows out of the interplay of the two opposing forces in a plot.

**Literary Elements:** The essential techniques used in literature (e.g., characterization, setting, plot, theme).

**Literary Devices**: Tools used by the author to enliven and provide voice to the writing (e.g., dialogue, alliteration).

**Literary Structures:** The author’s method of organizing text (e.g., foreshadowing, flashbacks).

**Mood:** The prevailing emotions of a work or of the author in his or her creation of the work. The mood of a work is not always what might be expected based on its subject matter.

**Satire:**  A literary tone used to ridicule or make fun of human vice or weakness.

**Summarize:** To capture all the most important parts of the original text (paragraph, story, poem), but express them in a much shorter space, and - as far as possible - in the readers own words.

**Tone:**  The attitude of the author toward the audience and characters (e.g., serious or humorous).

**Validity:** Refers to statements that have the appearance of truth or reality**.**